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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN, TREASURER
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
OF THE
TOWN OF LONDONDERRY,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1876.

MANCHESTER, N. H.:
PRINTED BY C. F. LIVINGSTON.
1876.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The financial transactions of the year are shown by the

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1 1876.

DR.	
To cash on hand Feb. 26, 1875,	\$713 42
Due from L. H. Nesmith,	1,044 16
“ “ M. H. Holmes,	217 91
Notes in favor of town,	71 50
Principle of surplus Revenue Fund,	1,728 33
Interest “ “ “	103 69
Literary Fund,	174 67
Received for sale of William Pridies effects,	10 00
Sale of Town Note,	1,728 33
Interest on N. H. Bonds,	18 48
Premium on “ “	32 00
County of Rockingham for support of poor,	99 68
State Savings Bank tax,	1,721 63
Railroad tax,	494 13
Literary Fund,	137 60
Interest on town notes,	13 71
D. G. Annis, collector, for 1874	4,417 07
D. G. Annis, interest on taxes, 1874,	70 52

Received D. G. Annis, collector, 1875,	\$6,07 39
D. G. Annis, interest on taxes,	12 28
Town of Auburn,	7 08
Sedley A. Lowd, use of town house,	4 50
L. H. Nesmith, interest on taxes,	127 97
	<hr/>
	\$19,156 05

Cr.

By cash paid Selectmen's orders,	\$14,546 65
Surplus revenue fund on hand,	1,728 33
Literary fund on hand,	137 60
Due from L. H. Nesmith,	233 19
Due from M. H. Holmes,	217 91
Notes in favor of town,	219 50
Cash in Treasury,	2,072 87
	<hr/>
	\$19,156 05

DANIEL G. ANNIS, *Treasurer.*COLLECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
MARCH 1, 1876.

Dr.

To uncollected taxes on list for 1874,	\$4,743 18
Tax list for 1875 as follows :	
Resident, State, County, Town and School tax,	6,191 87
Non-resident " " " " "	895 57
Resident, highway tax,	1,451 25
Non-resident, " "	209 68
Dog tax,	91 00
Resident school house tax in District No. 7,	116 23
Non-resident, " " " " 7,	35 67
Resident, " " " " 9,	11 84
Non-resident, " " " " 9,	5 18
Resident, " " " " 6,	240 18
Non-resident, " " " " 6,	39 12
	<hr/>
	\$14,030 77

CR.

By cash to Town Treasurer as follows :

Cash on list for 1874,	\$2,440 83
Resident highway tax in money for 1874,	25 09
Non-resident " " in labor for 1874,	2 06
Abatement of taxes for 1874,	83 88
Resident highway tax in labor for 1874,	1,865 21
Cash on list for 1875,	6,022 23
Resident highway tax in money for 1875,	68 41
Non-resident " " labor for 1875,	20 62
Discount on taxes for 1875,	63 26
Abatement of taxes for 1875,	32 87
Uncollected taxes for 1874,	326 11
" " 1875,	3,080 20
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	\$14,030 77

DANIEL G. ANNIS, *Collector.*

STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid State tax,	\$1,704 00
County tax,	1,586 45
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	\$3,290 45

SCHOOLS.

Paid District No. 1,	\$246 39
" " 2,	233 99
" " 3,	108 19
" " 4,	177 43
" " 5,	155 44
" " 6,	188 04
" " 7,	218 17
" " 8,	244 63
" " 9,	115 81
" " 10,	27 59
	<hr/>
	\$1,715 68

SCHOOL HOUSE TAX.

Paid L. H. Nesmith, District No. 6, tax of 1874,	\$750 00
L. H. Nesmith, " " 6, " 1875,	246 00
Horace C. Boyce, " " 6, " "	20 00
George W. Boyce, " " 7,	150 00
J. L. Fletcher, " " 9,	16 20
	<hr/>
	\$1,182 20

ROAD AND BRIDGES.

Paid Gage & Jones, lumber for Beaver brook bridge,	\$81 22
Barr & Co., iron for same,	8 51
Samuel Campbell, labor on same,	10 27
E. L. Campbell, " "	6 00
A. W. Mack, " "	5 00
John Daley, labor on highway and bridge,	6 08
E. L. Campbell, " Boyd "	2 00
E. L. Campbell, " Titcomb "	7 00
John A. Moor, bridge plank for Robie bridges,	31 34
Josiah Goodwin, labor on highway,	7 00
D. W. Ela, " "	1 35
William Mison, " "	1 50
N. C. Alexander, " "	1 00
E. L. Campbell, " "	3 00
Charles Adams, " "	4 49
Leonard Page, " "	9 45
James Pettingill, " "	5 43
W. Perkins, plank for bridges,	3 36
W. Perkins, plank for bridge near Morrison's,	9 50
E. L. Campbell, expense of railing road near F. D. Anderson's place,	17 55
	<hr/>
	\$221 05

WINTER ROADS.

Paid Oliver F. Blood, breaking roads, 1864,	\$1 65
Robert Marshall, " " 1874,	2 75
Leonard Page, " " "	4 75

Paid William Scollay, breaking roads, 1875,				\$2 25
B. McAllister,	"	"	"	2 90
D. W. Ela,	"	"	"	1 80
William Mison,	"	"	"	3 00
John Remington,	"	"	"	4 65
Hiram Cutler,	"	"	"	3 60
G. W. Cutler,	"	"	"	5 30
G. W. Annis,	"	"	"	1 80
P. B. Annis,	"	"	"	1 65
J. M. Bancroft,	"	"	"	1 05
P. Farley,	"	"	"	45
John Merrill,	"	"	"	2 75
James Pettingill,	"	"	"	2 00
James Dooley,	"	"	"	4 65
C. M. Holmes,	"	"	1873,	4 93
				<hr/>
				\$51 93

TOWN POOR.

Paid Sarah H. Lawrence, support of C. M. Hovey,				\$25 00
G. N. Goodwin,	"	Amos Goodwin,		70 00
A. P. Hardy, supplies to Daniel Griffin,				8 00
				<hr/>
				\$103 00

COUNTY POOR.

Paid Thomas Rein, support of Marie Perry,				\$12 00
J. W. Mackay, supplies to Moses Pond,				8 51
Josiah Goodwin, wood for	"	"		19 27
A. P. Hardy, supplies for Dennis Connor,				28 00
Benning Noyes, support of Mary Dyer,				15 00
W. Perkins, wood, &c., for G. Stewart,				6 50
Charles Admas, supplies for Geo. Stewart,				20 42
Charles Adams, coffin for Geo. Stewart,				12 00
George E. Allen, digging grave for Geo. Stewart,				1 00
William Clark,	"	"	"	1 00
R. Goodhue, driving hearse, &c.	"	"		1 75

Paid Eugene Wason, M. D., medical attendance upon Margaret Wallace,	3 00
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\$128 45

TRANSIENT PAUPERS.

Paid Washington Perkins, relief of transient paupers,	\$24 60
A. W. Mack, " " "	2 75

\$27 35

DISCOUNT.

Paid D. G. Annis, discount on taxes of 1875,	\$63 26
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ABATEMENTS.

Paid L. H. Nesmith, abatements on lists of 1872-1873,	\$36 34
Gilbert Hills, " taxes of 1871-72-73,	3 42
John Reid, " taxes of 1875, and	
school house tax of 1874,	40 00
D. G. Annis, on list of 1874,	83 88
D. G. Annis, " " 1875,	32 87

\$196 51

NON-RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX.

Abatement on D. G. Annis, list of 1874 paid in labor,	\$2 06
Annis' list of 1875,	20 62

\$22 68

RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX.

Resident highway tax paid in labor—tax of 1874	\$1865.21
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TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid William S. Pillsbury, moderator	\$3.00
D. G. Annis, Town Clerk	25.00
" Treasurer	20.00
" Collector	122.50

Paid Jonathan McAllister, Special assessor	\$81.50
John Dickey, " "	83.00
Mason Boyd " "	83.25
John Dickey, School Committee	42.00
A. W. Mack, selectman, 1875	96.20
" " selectmen's clerk,	10.00
Washington Perkins, selectman's clerk 1875,	78.00
J. Warren Peabody, " " "	56.00
A. P. Hardy, Auditor	2.00
Jonathan McAllister, Auditor	2.00
C. S. Pillsbury, "	2.00
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	\$706.45

INTEREST.

Paid D. G. Annis, parish treasurer	\$396.00
A. P. Hardy	92.50
Emira March,	26.00
S. C. Barker,	62.50
Jonathan Savory,	25.00
J. F. Wheeler,	30.00
C. S. Pillsbury,	85.00
Susan A. Davis,	3.00
Benjamin McAllister,	2.50
Daniel G. Annis, surplus revenue note	103.69
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	\$826.19

BONDS PAID.

Paid Susan A. Davis,	\$1000.00
Samuel C. Barker,	500.00
A. P. Hardy,	500.00
C. S. Pillsbury,	500.00
B. McAllister,	500.00
Emira March,	500.00
Jonathan Savory,	500.00
	<hr/>
	\$4000.00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid W. H. Fisk, books and printing,	\$73 73
G. Y. Sawyer, legal advice 1869,	12 00
E. B. Buxton, returning births and deaths,	4 25
Mrs. W. J. Campbell, " "	2 25
J. H. Manning, painting two guide boards,	2 00
W. H. Anderson, guide post,	7 00
W. Perkins, guide post and boards,	1 50
J. McAllister, wood for town house,	1 87
W. S. Pillsbury, cutting grass and brush in south grave yard,	5 00
J. M. Bancroft, sheep killed by dogs,	5 00
W. Perkins, cash paid out in Richardson law suit,	7 80
A. W. Mack, " " " "	5 90
A. W. Mack, cash paid witnesses " "	17 94
	<hr/>
	\$146 24

RECAPITULATION.

State and County tax,	\$3,290 45
Schools,	1,715 68
School house tax,	1,182 20
Roads and bridges,	221 05
Winter roads,	51 93
Town Poor,	103 00
County Poor,	128 45
Transient paupers,	27 35
Discount,	63 26
Abatements,	196 51
Non-resident highway tax,	22 68
Resident " "	1,865 21
Town officers,	706 45
Interest,	826 19

Bonds,	4,000 00
Miscellaneous,	146 24
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	\$14,546 65

LONDONDERRY, March 1, 1876.

This certifies that we have this day audited the Selectmen's accounts, and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

AARON P. HARDY,	}	<i>Auditors</i>
JONA McALLISTER,		
CHAS. S. PILLSBURY,		

BALANCE SHEET.

To bonds payable,	\$10,600 00
Note payable,	1,728 33
To outstanding order,	2 55
To bills payable,	111 00
	<hr/>
	\$12,441 88

Cr.

By cash due on L. H. Nesmith's list,	\$233 19
D. G. Annis' list 1874,	326 11
D. G. Annis' list 1875,	1,488 95
Notes,	449 50
For use of town house,	7 50
In Treasury,	2,210 47
Surplus revenue,	1,728 33
By balance — Debt of Town,	5,997 83
	<hr/>
	\$12,441 88

The amount of uncollected taxes reported is exclusive of highway taxes and of dog tax. Reduction of debt during the year, \$2792.43.

ANDREW W. MACK,	}	<i>Selectmen of Londonderry.</i>
WASHINGTON PERKINS,		
J. WARREN PEABODY,		

LONDONDERRY, March 1, 1876.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

During several months in the summer, Mr. Andrew W. Mack had the entire supervision of the schools in town. The summer terms in districts No. 4, and No. 5, are reported fully by him, and others were officially visited, the individual reports of which are partially based on his observations.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE.

The summer school was taught in two terms, by Miss Emma Lawrence. At the examination it was found that the prevailing fault of the school was an inclination on the part of the scholars to smother their voices to such an extent that it was laboring under extreme difficulties to hear, even the most important answers. The teacher is believed to have made the most persistent efforts to remedy the evil, but without full success. Her well drilled classes in reading gave abundant evidence, however, that her labors toward that end had been well rewarded, and her method of imparting instruction in the sounds of the letters to her pupils, not omitting the smallest, is highly commended to all future

teachers. Much might be said in favor of Miss Lawrence's methods and plans in the school-room, of her judicious arrangement of classes, while her habits of labor were at all times assiduous and self-denying. A neat present at the close of the school evinced the esteem of her pupils.

The winter school was in charge of Mr. Charles McAllister, a recent student at Tufts' College. His instruction in the different branches was clear, correct and scholarly. In the line of discipline he was eminently successful. His rules, if in any case reluctantly, were strictly obeyed, and at each visit of the committee the school appeared in a very proper state of subordination. A large share of well-directed attention had been given to arithmetic, both mental and written, in which branch correct and intelligent answers were given, and much credit is due to some of the older pupils for the clearness and accuracy with which the somewhat difficult examples were performed on the blackboard.

Charles H. Holmes in the two summer terms, Eddie Hartshorn, George W. Benson, Oscar P. Benson, Willie D. Young, Charles A. Lawson, Hattie Whittemore and Mary Young, one term each, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO.

Three terms taught by Miss Abbie E. Boyd. The school was a success throughout; Miss Boyd has the important requisites of a good teacher, and a disposition to apply herself, mind and body, in the work of developing all that it is possible to draw from the mind of her pupils. Her efforts in this school did not fail of their deserved effect. It is composed of scholars possessing a good degree of self-respect, mannerly in behavior, co-operating cheerfully in the labors of their teachers, and withal, perhaps more advanced than those of any other in town. As might be expected, the exercises at the last examination proved that the preceding terms had been seasons of diligent, efficient work. The first class in geography, noticed at the close of the winter term, was one, the like of which the committee had been looking for in other schools, but had thus far failed to find. It was a fit com-

mentary on the propriety of studying geography until it is learned. Other recitations at the close of both terms were of a high order, demonstrating that where aims are high and determination strong, good results inevitably follow.

Clara A. Anderson, Emma D. Boyd, George H. Boyd, Perley S. Robie, Frank E. Robie, in every term; Lizzie M. Spalding, Ephraim Spalding, Wallace P. Mack, Nellie S. Wallace, Arthur C. Anderson and Albert Spalding, in two terms, George Anderson, Martin E. Anderson, Augustus Peabody, Harry W. Wallace, Willie J. Eaton, May E. Anderson, Georgie W. Knight, Annie B. Mack, Julia F. Morrison, Hattie J. Thomas, in one term, were perfect in attendance.

It will be noticed that this is the banner school for good attendance, more than half the whole number of scholars showing a record of perfect attendance during one or more terms, and less than one half as many instances of tardiness as the school numbered, occurring in the whole year.

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE.

Miss M. Lizzie Anderson, teacher. Miss Anderson is well known in the southern portion of the town, as a teacher of no doubtful merit. Her praise is in all the numerous schools she has taught, and whatever may have been said of a favorable nature in former reports, will bear repeating in this. The quality of the schooling in this district, the past year, could hardly be improved, but the quantity was decidedly homœopathic. It seemed like making two bites of a cherry, but the school was divided into a term of nine weeks of summer school and four of winter, thirteen weeks being all that could be afforded the twenty-seven intelligent scholars who reside in the district. If they shall ever become unduly learned, it cannot be justly chargeable to an extravagant waste of time in attending the common school; but the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, and it is not unlikely that No. 3, by a wise application of means, as practiced this year, may vie in scholarship with some of the larger and more opulent districts.

Sarah J. Blood, Mary E. Blood, Sarah O. Peterson, Freeman L. Herrick, in both terms; Addie P. Boyd, Clara A. Dooley, Ella J. Dooley, Ida A. Dooley, Hattie A. Morrison, John W. Daley, James P. Daley, Fred. W. Herrick and John Peterson, in the winter term, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR.

The summer term was taught by Miss —— Allen. The literary qualifications of Miss A. were found to be excellent, and the fears which arose from her youth and inexperience were soon dispelled by the tact and dignity with which she managed her school. She did her work thoroughly, and, we learn, gave good satisfaction to her employers. Miss A. possesses many of the qualifications of the successful teacher.

The winter school was under the instruction of Mr. Andrew Oliver, jr., a student at Dartmouth College. With ample scholarship, decision of character and extensive experience, he was enabled to do just the kind of work especially needed in this school, winning his pupils from idleness to habits of industry, and impressing upon them a sense of self-respect, and the importance of a more intense personal application, that will be of lasting benefit. At the examination it was not difficult to see that good proficiency had been made in all the branches studied. The good order and the ready and correct answers of the scholars showed that they were taking an interest in *themselves*. When pupils are brought to that point, improvement is inevitable. That the scholars appreciated their teacher's services was shown by a valuable present at the close of the school.

Mr. Oliver conducted a private school at the close of the public term, which was largely patronized by his former pupils.

Hattie Whorff, in both terms, and Alice Blood, Eliza Morrison, Fradora Morey, Etta Twiss, Charles G. Pillsbury, Eddie Annis, John Blood, William Blood, Henry Morey and Justice J. Towns, in the winter term, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE.

Summer term, Miss Ortie Smith, teacher; we remember her as a studious and earnest pupil, and judge that in point of scholarship Miss S. is well qualified to teach. She labored faithfully for the good of her charge, and if the results did not quite equal her expectations, or those of her employers, she certainly deserved success, and only needs experience to secure it in future.

Winter term taught by Mrs. Ella E. Wiley. As usual, the school was a success under the tuition of Mrs. Wiley; having the acquaintance of all her pupils, the work was commenced understandingly, and well done. The dozen scholars under her care received her undivided attention. At the examination, classes in geography were especially deserving of praise, and the classes, generally, gave evidence of diligent study and faithful instruction. The school is composed of energetic, lively scholars, whose ability to learn is unquestionable. The number of tardy marks on the register has been considerably reduced from last year, but will bear a still further reduction; the influence of parents, in the right direction, would go a great way as a remedy for the evil, and it is hoped that in the future the Register will show a cleaner record than in the past.

Mary A. Wiley and Eddie C. Woodbury were perfect in attendance during the winter term.

DISTRICT NUMBER SIX.

Miss Louise E. Mullins, teacher. Since the union of the two districts this has become one of our larger schools, ranking at the present time fourth in point of numbers. The new school house, erected during the past season, in which the school was kept in the winter term, is thoroughly finished, affords ample accommodations for all the pupils, and, for the comfort of the scholars, convenience, ventilation and general good arrangements, second to none in town. The cost is understood to be about \$1100.

These increased advantages appear to be appreciated. The scholars seemed inspired by the new order of things, to apply

themselves with more than their ordinary ambition, and in addition, they exhibited a degree of good manners and self respect, reflecting great credit, not only upon themselves, but upon their teacher and the parents of the district.

Miss Mullins' qualifications as a teacher need not here be specified or enlarged upon. Her work is too well known in that part of the town. The school gave unmistakable evidences of rare ability, both in governing and imparting instruction. Although there may be one or more schools in town having a larger number of advanced scholars, it is quite doubtful if this one has not outstripped any of its rivals in real improvement.

Mary E. Corning, Delia M. Watts, Nellie M. Watts, George M. Mullins, Ernest M. Watts, Frank A. Nesmith, in both terms, and Augusta M. Annis, Minnie D. Smith, Annie T. Smith, Clara B. Smith, Martha L. Watts, Hattie P. Mullins, Ella F. Boyce, Elizabeth Pressey, Charles J. Brown, George A. Watts, Willie E. Watts, Dora A. Dickey, Willie H. Colby, Nathan Watts and Freddie P. Eorning, in one term, each were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN.

Taught by Miss Emma B. Greeley. This has been the scene of Miss Greeley's labors for the past two years, which may be considered conclusive evidence of her popularity in the district. By her judicious management, and the good conduct of the scholars in cheerfully complying with required rules, the school was always commended to the good opinion of the committee.

Spelling and penmanship had been carefully attended to, and very creditable classes in grammar, geography and U. S. History were heard at the examination. The school, during the three terms, presents a most favorable record in regard to tardiness, as will be noticed in the table.

Fred. D. McGregor and Willie P. Boyce, in all the terms, Hattie E. McKay, in two terms, and Charles Alexander, Emery Alexander, Eugene Dotey and Sarah Richardson, during one term, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER EIGHT.

Miss Lucy W. Perkins, teacher. The school is small, compared with its former size, and composed of pupils not very far advanced in years, but at the examination they honored themselves and their teacher, in the accuracy of their answers, and the reasoning by which they reached their conclusions, showing that the drill had not been one of words, merely, but of principles and ideas. The low tone of voice with which the answers were given, with several notable exceptions, was not a good index of what the scholars were able to do. Miss Perkins was possessed of an education beyond criticism, exceedingly patient and self-denying in her labors, and it is not too much to say that though her experience was not large, she made the school profitable throughout, receiving to a very large extent the esteem of her pupils and the approbation of her employers.

Through the especial exertions of the teacher with the co-operation of her pupils and a little friendly assistance outside, an entertainment, consisting of declamations, dialogues and other exercises of interest, was given at the close of the summer school, with a small fee for admittance, the avails of which were sufficient for the purchase of a handsome and valuable globe, for the use of the school. An Unabridged Worcester's Dictionary is the result of a similar entertainment given a few years ago. Both bear honorable testimony for the teachers who proposed, and others who assisted in the means of procuring them.

Emma H. Perkins, in all the terms, Hattie F. Ladd, in two terms, and Julia M. Payne, Mattie M. Wood, Hattie E. Pressey, Charlotte E. Pressey, Eva E. Annis, Mattie M. Taylor, Charles A. Crowell, Eddie Pressey, Willie E. Taylor and Fred. E. Skinner, in one term, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER NINE.

Miss Rebecca L. George, teacher. Miss George has rendered good service in this district, as well as in other parts of the town, previous to the past season. Under her administration a profita-

ble school is expected, and the rule was not at all violated in this instance. The order was such that no suggestions were required to improve it, and at the examinations several classes manifested a remarkably correct understanding of the branches they had studied; especially was it the case with the classes in geography. We would like to introduce to other schools in town, the first class of half a dozen readers, at the close of the winter term, as a very proper model to be followed; it demonstrated the necessity of teaching reading as an art, rather than a monotonous matter-of-fact exercise. The district includes Dist. No. 10, in Derry. While the instances of tardiness and absences are chargeable to the whole school, the whole number of scholars reported in the table includes only those belonging in Londonderry. Six scholars in addition, not belonging in this town, should be reported by the committee in Derry, and draw their share of any funds devoted to schools, per scholar, from that town.

Ella Pollard, Hattie Pollard, Alida J. Proctor, Evelyn M. Wheeler, Sadie F. Wheeler, Edith M. Whidden, Georgie Platts and Frank E. Stearns, in the summer, Mamie E. T. Platts in the winter, and Eddie Tebbetts and Frank Greeley, in both terms, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER TEN.

Is a part of No. 3, Derry, and under the care of the committee in that town. But three members of the school are reported as belonging to Londonderry. Three terms of school were taught, thirty-one weeks in the aggregate, the winter term by Mr. G. R. Bartlett, and the summer terms by Miss Maria Parsons.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

It may be felt, upon reading the foregoing report of individual schools, that there is an undue uniformity in the commendation in most cases bestowed upon teachers, but the committee is conscious of having spoken no more nor less than the truth, and of giving credit in no instance where it was undeserved, and he is rather

proud that the facts fully warrant him in speaking thus favorably. It is believed there is no class of service in which workmen have exhibited more fidelity to their employers, more interest in their especial duties, or more self-denial in their habits of application, than the corps of teachers employed during the last season. It is absolutely essential in all departments of business, that in order to obtain the best results, those employed to carry on the work should possess honesty of purpose as well as capacity, a will to work as well as to know how to do it, and the folly of pretending to fill the office of a public teacher in the common school while in possession of but one or neither of these qualifications, has been exemplified in far too many cases, and there may well be a quiet satisfaction felt that we have, in a great degree, escaped such an infliction, in the employment of the dozen teachers, whose individual work we have just been considering. To say that their work has been unquestionably well done, or that they have met with remarkable success is simply true, but does not necessarily imply that no grave mistakes have been committed, only that, by dint of a better fitness and a stronger will, the mistakes are less frequent and the errors less serious, than might have occurred under other circumstances.

Writing receives increased attention, every teacher, as far as the committee is informed, having made it a daily exercise. It should be more and more encouraged by teachers, and parents ought in all cases to see that no scholar of a proper age attends school through the first week without a writing book, and when the book is finished, the dutiful boy or girl would generally take it as a kindness should the parent manifest an interest so far as to look over the work and give a cheerful expression of encouragement, or a word of kind advice, to help along in the difficult task of learning to write.

Owing to its previous apparent neglect, the especial attention of schools has been called to the study of Geography, and the committee is pleased to say that in most cases the suggestion has been met by a satisfactory response. Vigorous and enthusiastic classes have been observed in nearly every school, and in several instances a comprehensive knowledge of what is contained in the larger text book, has been exhibited, superior even to that pos-

essed by very many teachers, and far surpassing the very best classes that could be found in either of the two preceding years. At this day of rapid transit, when a few hours suffices to bring us the news from the four quarters of the globe, an incomplete knowledge of geography should by no means be deemed sufficient.

The committee does not acknowledge a complete satisfaction in the progress made in reading. He is convinced that many, perhaps a majority of teachers, would themselves plead guilty of serious shortcomings in their methods of giving instruction in this branch. How many are satisfied with a proper calling of the words, a long pause at a period, a shorter one at a colon or semicolon and possibly none at all at a comma, and require nothing more? as though that were all sufficient. It is simply painful to hear pieces read, when strong emotion is required, in a smothered undertone, with no variety of inflections, the words clipped at both ends, and even the pauses passed over as rapidly as though they were indications of haste. Distinct utterance and full tones should *invariably* be insisted upon. Nothing would contribute to this or assist the teacher in securing it, so much as a frequent practical exercise in the sounds of the letters. A knowledge of these elementary principles is far from being fully developed in our schools. Their importance need not be dwelt upon, but is it doubtful that very many who would dislike to be called poor scholars go out from the common school with as little theoretical knowledge of the sounds of the letters as they have of navigation or the movements of the heavenly bodies? The spelling book is surely as good a starting point for one on his educational course, and at that point most boys and girls are rather proud of the knowledge it affords, but when the pupil comes to grapple with knotty problems and, as he thinks, masters them with a high hand, he is apt to think the poor old spelling book away beneath his notice, gives it a cool neglect, and, although his consent may be given to "spell" from it, he can never give his precious time to the study of its contents. The consequence is, when he "graduates" from the common school he does not know the proper sounds of the first letter of the alphabet, cannot abbreviate a half dozen words, nor scarcely tell the meaning of a dash or an exclamation point, and when called upon to write a letter,

as most young men and young women are, there are scores of common words he desires to use, but so ugly to spell he is utterly unable to master them. At about this stage of life visions of the discarded old spelling book appear, but too late; the harp must be hung upon the willow, and the future filled up with unpleasant regrets. A *first rate* knowledge of the contents of this neglected book has more to do with respectability and usefulness in after life than many young people are willing to admit.

The cultivation of good manners in our schools is very essential. Children should be learned good behavior, a direct regard to the rights of others, and to practice the little courtesies of life in their intercourse with each other. The good old-fashioned yes, sir, and no, sir, ought not be mere relics of the past. There is as much true politeness in a courteous answer to-day, as fifty years ago, and it speaks as fully to the credit of the school boy or school girl of the present as of the past. Although the same forms may not be required, yet, to the passer-by, some token of respect or modest recognition of seniority would certainly not be out of place, and would be far preferable to the unblushing cheek too often manifested by progressive young America. Teachers have a good deal of responsibility in this matter of civility, and parents still more.

At the close of a century of our nation's existence, when all our industrial pursuits, including literature, science and art, are to be represented in a grand exhibition, showing to the world the wealth of our resources, and the rapidity of our growth as a people, it is well to inquire, how much the common school, of which we are just now speaking, has had to do with the development of these resources, and the attainment of this wonderful growth. It would, perhaps, be more pertinent to ask what it has *not* had to do with it, into what department of industry its influences have not permeated, what branch of science or art it has not, in its direct bearing, aided in bringing to a standard of fair comparison with that of other countries, more than a thousand years older than our own. Perhaps we can in no way comprehend its worth so well as to draw upon the imagination for a picture of our probable condition, as a community, at the present time, had no provision, whatever, been made for such an education as the

common school affords. The picture would doubtless be a dark one, but instructive in its lessons. The very sacrifices in which it was founded, as well as the benefits it has conferred, should make it precious as a legacy, not to be luxuriated upon, wasted and lost, but used, improved, perfected.

JOHN DICKEY, *S. S. Committee.*

LONDONDERRY, March 6, 1876.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

No. of the District.	PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.	Whole No. of Scholars.	Whole No. in Summer.	Whole No. in Winter.	Average No. in Summer.	Average No. in Winter.	Wages per month Summer Teacher.	Wages per month Winter Teacher.	Length of Summer School in weeks.	Length of Winter School in weeks.	Amount of money appropriated to each Dist.	Amount per Scholar.	Instances of Tardiness.	No. of days Absence.
1	William P. Nevins	51	39	34	34	29	30	50	16	10	\$246 39	\$4 83	116	674
2	Mason Boyd	40	31	29	24	27	30	32	19	10	233 09	5 85	16	430
3	John Daley	27	22	22	20	18	30	30	9	4	108 19	4 00	37	154
4	B. F. Whorff	51	41	44	33	41	28	40	10	9	177 43	3 48	134	395
5	E. A. Wiley	14	10	12	7	10	24	32	9	12	155 44	11 10	70	253
6	Isaac Kimball	41	26	36	24	30	32	32	9	13	188 04	4 58	42	379
7	Geo. W. Boyce	29	24	17	17	14	30	32	16	10	218 17	7 52	27	174
8	James G. Stone	54	46	33	28	25	28	30	20	12	244 63	4 21	99	1213
9	J. L. Fletcher	17	13	12	11	10	31	33	6	10	115 81	6 81	35	145
10	J. R. Clark	3		3		2	28	32	22	9	27 59	9 19	6	55

Income of Literary Fund applied to Schools,	\$175 00
Interest on surplus Revenue Fund to Schools,	50 00
Amount raised by taxation applied to Schools,	1,491 00

Whole amount appropriated by town,	\$1,716 00
Proceeds of Edmund Adams fund applied in Dist.	

No. 8,	20 00
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\$1,736 00

Appropriated by town of Derry, applied in Dist.

No. 9,	31 00
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Whole amount applied to Schools,	\$1767 00
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List of Text Books authorized.—Bible, Hillard's Series of Readers, Warren's Geography, Quackenbos' Grammar, Swinton's Language Lessons, Greenleaf's Common School and Colburn's and Emerson's Mental Arithmetics, Worcester's Speller, Potter and Hammond's Series of Writing Books, and Campbell's United States History.

